



BRANCHES



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**Volume 26
Issue 5
Dec. 20 , 2013**

The purpose of our parental Christian School is to educate our children to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for a life of responsible stewardship in God's Kingdom.

From the Chairman....

Chris Hoff

Well, it has been a busy time at the school of late. Reports cards are done, parent-teacher interviews are over, craft day has come and gone and by the time you receive this edition of *Branches*, students and staff will be on holidays. It has been a fairly busy time for the Board as well, as we contemplate matters such as building expansion, staffing and program delivery for the 2014-2015 school year.

Building Expansion and Membership Meeting Wednesday January 22 2014

At the October general meeting, membership voted to advance a four room expansion to CCES. Since that time the Expansion Committee has been (very) busy working out the plans in detail, visiting other schools and consulting with staff, developing a fundraising plan etc. We also welcome Wenda Sikma to the Expansion Committee!

Moving from the conceptual to the concrete design has revealed some issues with the building code, and the Board is now also considering other design options including a three room addition along the north side of the gym wall. We are still in the process of working out the details, and hope to have an information package available to membership in early January. We plan to have a membership meeting to get your feedback on January 22, 2014 - so please mark your calendars!

Staffing Matters

It is time to bid farewell to Marie Bosma, who has very ably served us over the last few years. In particular, she has been an important aid to Jerry Scholtens in Grade 4 during this term. Marie plans to begin a Professional Development Program (PDP), with a view to gaining qualifications to teach in British Columbia. Marie - thank you for your faithful service, and we pray for God's blessing on your future endeavors.

As you know, Jessica and Kevin DeBoer are expecting their first child in April 2014, and Jessica is leaving on maternity leave after March break.

Related to this, we announced the appointment of Amy Vanderhoek by email. For those that did not get the email, the announcement is repeated again here: "We are very pleased to announce that we have engaged Amy Vanderhoek to complete teaching the Grade 6 class for the 2013-2014 school year. Amy has completed a Bachelor of Arts in History at Kings University College in Edmonton, and is presently completing her Bachelor of Education (Elementary After-degree), also at the Kings University College. She expects to complete her final teaching practicum in a Grade 5 class by April 2014, and will be able to move to Langley and take over the Grade 6 class in late April 2014. In September 2014, Amy will teach an intermediate grade.

Amy has a firm commitment to the Reformed faith as expressed through the Three Forms of Unity, and views CCES as a place where covenant children learn to appreciate the richness of being in the body of Christ. Through teaching she aims to impart her great passion for learning, and help prepare our children to engage the world with a godly worldview. We are confident she will be a strong complement to the teaching staff. We are thankful that God has seen it fit to raise Amy for this purpose, and welcome her into our school."

Program Delivery for September 2014

Thanks again to the Education Committee and Heres for their analysis of program delivery options for next year. Given the class sizes that are anticipated in September 2014, the Board is inclined to split what will be the Grade 4 and Grade 1 classes in September 2014. Grade 5 will remain a large class as well, but we are planning for provisions to assist Linda and Natasja.

On behalf of the Board, we hope that all - parents, students, staff, and CCES members - will enjoy time spent with family, gain strength from the celebration of Christ incarnation and God's redeeming work, and return safe and refreshed in Year 2014.

From the Principal....

Heres Snijder

Term One is officially over. Report cards have been written, signed, and discussed. Overall performances and specific skills have been assessed, charted, and analyzed. With an 88% participation rate in the most recent Parent Teacher Interviews, we can assume an excellent level of understanding of our students' strengths, challenges and learning styles. We move onward and forward now into Term two, fully anticipating the warp and woof that is brought about by being both God's workmanship and God's fellow workers (Eph.2, 2 Cor.3)

Assemblies, Fundraisers, Awareness raisers and field trips bless the ties that bind

In this issue of *Branches* you'll find pictures illustrating the numerous activities that have taken place, from *current events* to an on-site field trip the day the HVAC unit was replaced: 'now we have *ercondishuneen* again!' (See elsewhere in this issue, for the full story) As well, two assemblies were held since the last issue of *Branches*: one at the beginning of December and a fund and awareness raiser for the benefit of the Pro-Life cause.

Christmas Parade and fellowship with Senior Citizens

A note of appreciation goes to the Langley Pro-Life society, Jennifer Onderwater, Alyson Bosch and Mike Vandergugten for their contributions to a Pro-life message at the Christmas Parade. Elsewhere in *Branches* you can read about the event: some pictures are included as well. Additionally, CCES students helped raise a total amount of \$533.30 for the Langley Pro Life organization. Ms Bosch also connected her grade 2 students with senior citizens from Manohah Manor. Mr. Scholtens took the Grade 4 students to Harrison Point Senior Centre for a time of singing and fellowship. This was very well received: some requests for lyrics of songs were made!

Farewell, blessings, best wishes and: Welcome to Credo!

Otto Bouwman's brief stay at Credo came to an end

on December 11. Otto himself stated that it has been a valuable and memorable experience for him. The students reciprocated by gift wrapping his car as a parting gift; the classroom mothers joined right in and organized an afternoon of fun and games. Marie Bosma has just bade her farewell after working with us for 1 year and 4 months. Marie's presence has been very much appreciated in Grades 7 and 4. She will complete her PDP program starting in January. Recently, Amy VanderHoek has accepted an offer of employment from Credo's Board. We are delighted to have a suitable replacement for Jessica DeBoer. Amy is completing her PDP program at King's University (Alberta) by the end of March and assume teaching duties towards the end of April. Welcome to Credo, Amy: we are very grateful to have you join us!

Boundaries and Memory Work Program

The Education Committee members continue to work their way through an excellent book about Boundaries. In March an evening is scheduled to discuss how healthy choices grow healthy children in the context of caring and invested home, church and school community. *Power, Respect, Motivation, and Responsibility* are some of the 10 boundary principles that contribute to keeping out undesirable character traits. As well, the Memory Work program will be subject for review, starting in January 2014. Content, scope and sequence will be assessed, and recommendations will be shared with staff and other schools, who have shared their memory work programs and implementation strategies with us. Concepts and terms integral to curriculum development will be explored and applied to this program.

Praise God from who all blessing floats
Praise him all creatures here bababa
Praise Him above hmmmhmmhmmm
Praise Father, Son and Rolling Stones!

"Mom! I know that song so well!"

-A proud Kindergarten student -

CCES and the Loyola Case.

CCES is now member of the newly minted *Coalition of Reformed Educators* (37 schools and 1 teachers college). In turn, this Coalition is now also part of the Association Of Christian Educators And Schools Canada which has been formed by ARPA. The following thumbnail sketch of this association is lifted (with permission) from the affidavit of Mark H. Penninga, which was recently submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada.

" **ACES Canada** is a national association comprised of the following member organizations who collectively represent three hundred and fifteen (315) confessional, independent/private, parent-run elementary and secondary schools and twelve (12) post-secondary confessional educational institutions from across Canada:

- The Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (71 schools);
- The Association of Christian Schools International - Eastern Canada (69 schools and 4 post-secondary institutions);
- The Association of Christian Schools International - Western Canada (76 schools and 6 post-secondary institutions);
- The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (20 schools and 1 post-secondary institution);
- The Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia (42 schools);
- The Coalition of Reformed Educators (37 schools and 1 teachers college); and
- The Association for Reformed Political Action Canada ("ARPA Canada"), which is the organizing member of ACES Canada.

The 315 parent-run schools represented by ACES Canada collectively

- Have an enrolment of approximately 70,000 students across Canada from kindergarten to grade 12;
- Employ approximately 6,600 teachers; and
- Have a broader supporting community of well over 250,000 Canadians.

Members of ACES subscribe to the following tenets:

- The family unit is an institution created by God with a specific and unique task;
- Fathers and Mothers are given authority and responsibility by God to instruct their children in the Christian faith;
- Education starts as soon as a child is able to understand and extends to all areas of life, including outside the walls of institutional schooling;
- The Lordship of Christ extends to all areas of life, both public and private;
- All education, including at home and in a school, is rooted in the Holy Scriptures and flows from a Christian worldview;
- Parents, not the State, are given primary responsibility by God to educate children;
- The State is an institution created by God with a specific and unique task; and
- When the State has taken on a role in the education of children, it may do so only as an agent on behalf of parents.

Let us continue to support, defend, share and contribute to the rich blessings God has bestowed on us in 2013, and may we continue to look up to Him for guidance in AD 2014.



Current Events in the Grade 5 Classroom

Using today's real-life events has become part of the Grade 5 Social Studies program. This focus helps students to understand and to apply a biblical worldview to their thinking and to building up of compassion. Becoming informed, helps kids to grow in their faith and their understanding of the world around them, the importance of people, events, and issues in the news. Students shared some of their thoughts about learning about Current Events in the classroom:



A current event is what is happening in a school community or anywhere in the world either local, world- wide or nation- wide. A current event could occur at any time or at any place. Current events are usually on the news. What has happened can be a natural disaster or it can be man- made. Some things are shocking to hear but God always knows when a current event will strike.

By: Adam Vandergugten

There are wars in our world. What is a war you might ask? If you ask this question, here's your answer... Wars are a deadly conflict against other countries and nations. Currents events let us know where the wars are happening, for what reason and how many have been injured or killed.

By: Luke Borst

Current events are important because through current events we know what is happening in this world all around us, good and bad things. Another importance for current events is for us to see all that is happening and help those communities or places by praying, donating to

good cause because God tells us to reach out to those in need. We need to recognize how blessed we really are.

By: Corday Vanvliet

Current Events are big things that have happened in the world at this present time. Current Events really help us understand what's happening in the world. Usually, I have no idea what's going on around me. In the intermediate wing, in between the grade 5 and 7 classrooms, there is a board titled: CURRENT EVENTS. Grade 5 brings in newspaper clippings every now and then and hangs them on the board. The clippings tell things that have happened lately. So, GO AHEAD AND READ THEM!

By: Amy Huttema

Current events can tell about wars in the world. There is a current war in Afghanistan. Our soldiers are there trying to keep peace. They are called peace-keepers. They are trying to keep the world safe from harm or death and we learn about how they are doing this through current events. A lot of citizens are evacuating because of the war which we also learn about from current events.

By: Nathan Vanderpol



Current Events Outside the Grade 1 Classroom

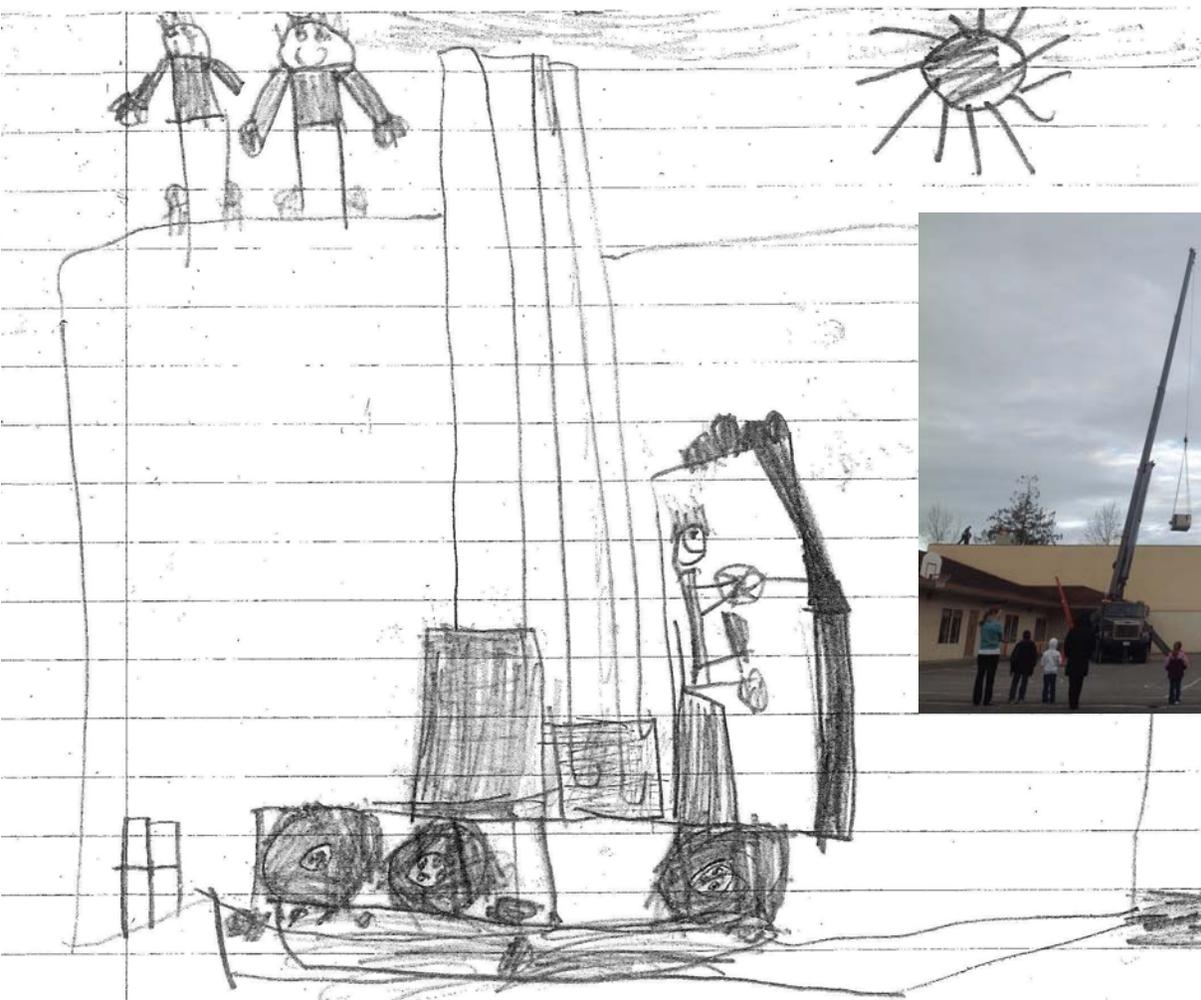
Last week our school received a new air conditioning/heating unit. The large truck parked right outside the grade one classroom windows so we had no choice but to watch the whole procedure. (Of course we could have closed the blinds but how boring is that ©!) We even went outside for a better look and watched as the crane lifted the old unit off the gym roof and replaced it with a new one. The students enjoyed "the show" and wrote and drew about it in their-writing books. Here is a sample:

I so a truck. It wus so cool. It wus liftee
the ercundishaneen. We wen ouwt side.
Tha had a noo wun so it was oca. We
wrt clos. And then we went inside.

**I sol a gat big truk. That lift the heddr
off the bidden (building). It whs
amassen. It whas fun. I likt it.**

I sot a truck a big truck. I got to go
woch it ewt sid.

Tooday u big chruc cumd tow the
scool. We wet tow see the chruc it
wuz fun.



For He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of His will

T.M.P. Vanderven

Taken with permission from Clarion Vol. 46, No. 20 (1997)

What better preparation for the day's activities is there than a study of a portion of God's Word, His revealed will. The quotation in the heading of this article precisely refers to that:

For He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of His will ... (Ephesians 1:9).

The word mystery in this text does not refer to the rites and knowledge of a secret society of which there were many in Paul's days. The apostle does not equate the Christian religion with the mystery religions of his days. Paul uses the word mystery always in relation to disclosure, or revelation: God reveals His will in Christ to all who will receive it. This verse speaks of the truth of God in Christ which the church may know and confess, and which it is commanded to preach to the whole world. That is the opposite of keeping a secret! The gospel must be proclaimed openly and publicly. And what is this gospel which must be proclaimed openly and publicly to all who will receive it?

This passage does not suggest some personal, individualistic experience. We do not read here about a way in which we can escape from this dreadful existence and be catapulted to a higher realm of wisdom and understanding. In one long sentence, with the words as it were tumbling one over the other, the verses 3 through 14 speak of the mighty works of God the Father in Christ His Beloved; of God the Son in whom we have been made the people of His inheritance; and of God the Holy Spirit in whom we have been sealed and in whom the promise of the gospel has been guaranteed. And all that unto the praise of His glory.

God's glory - that is the focus of this mighty sentence. These words show the glorious works of our God. They speak of election from the beginning, of sonship by adoption, of redemption and forgiveness of sins, of insight into God's all-embracing purpose, of the privilege of becoming His people, of the Holy Spirit as seal - a continuous flow of blessings with which we are blessed in Christ; these spiritual blessings are more than, but certainly do include material blessings.

Verse 9 speaks of wisdom and insight. These words are repeated in Paul's letter to the Colossians (2:2,3) where Paul speaks of the riches which the believers may have,

... all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, in Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Indeed, there is no wisdom or understanding outside of Christ. Let me remind you of the Book of Proverbs which speaks of the wisdom of the Lord, putting a sharp and revealing spotlight on our everyday life, teaching us about the way we should live as Christians. And I certainly may add here, the way we should educate our children, the way we should work and study, the way we should spend our leisure time ... as Christians!

We live in a world of confusion and uncertainty; there is no one who can explain all things, not even the natural phenomena. Surely, there are what we call laws of nature; but scientists tell us that much of what is taught as scientific certainty turns out to be no certainty at all. The one theory attempts to remedy the faults of an earlier one, only to be replaced by newer views. Who can explain in full detail the reasons for the Soviet revolution? Today's world is faced with horrendous problems (political and economic, social and ecological, personal and relational) with few if any suggestions for reliable solutions. Indeed, we live in a world where things rarely add up - so many questions; so few reliable answers.

And yet, Paul wrote his song of praise also for our comfort in a confused 20th century. The mystery that has been revealed to us tells us that we may look forward to a time when everything will be brought again into a meaningful relationship under the headship of Christ. In Him all things hold together (Colossians 1 :17). It has also been revealed to us that we have a beginning of this eternal joy already in this life (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 22). We may know and believe that,

... He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of His will, according to His purpose which He set forth in Christ as a plan for

the fulness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth (Ephesians 1:9,10). Surely, knowing this mystery, in all wisdom and insight is a key element in the renewal of our mind (Romans 12:2). Thus we can begin to understand that indeed the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom (Proverbs 1:7).

Parents and teachers may, through God's grace, be instrumental in helping each other understand a little more of that mystery of God's will which affects everything in heaven and on earth, including all things related to our lives within the family, the school, our work situation. All our activities, all the subjects and courses we study or teach, are part of the reality which, literally, is held together in Christ.

What a lesson for old and young (Proverbs 1:4,5) alike: we find here the basis of all reformed (that is, scriptural) education: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom. You are a fool if you despise it; even more than a fool: you are heading towards

eternal disaster and death. Therefore, young people, listen to the instruction of your father and the teachings of your mother. These are more valuable than the most precious man-made ornaments (Proverbs 1:7-8). And pray constantly.

*Show Thou unto me, Thy servant,
All Thy ways and teach Thou me,
So that, by Thy Spirit guided,
Clearly I Thy paths may see.*

*Sins of youth remember not,
Nor recall my hid transgressions;
For Thy goodness' sake, O God,
Think of me in Thy compassion.*

References:

NIV Study Bible
Ephesians (Tyndale New Testament Commentary).
A Mirror of the Manifold Wisdom of God:
Outlines on the Letter to the Ephesians
(J. C. Smelik).

Short Report of Board Meeting

Short Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Credo Christian Elementary School
November 12, 2013

- **Opening and Welcome:** The Chairman, Chris Hoff, opened the meeting by reading from Deuteronomy 6 and prayer. He welcomed all the Directors and Principal Heres Snijder to the meeting. Special welcome was extended to newly elected Directors Al Leyenhorst, Fiona Jansen and Will VanOene.
- **Agenda Approval:** The agenda for the regular board meeting was approved.
- **Minutes and Short Report:** The Minutes and Short Report of the September 10, 2013 Board meeting were adopted. The Minutes and Short Report of the October 1, 2013 Board meeting were adopted.
- **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence:** One incoming letter was received.
- **Principal's Report:** Heres Snijder presented the Principal's Report for November 2013 including activities related to staffing requirements, student led conferences, professional development, and public relations.
- **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's report for November 2013 was received for information. Chris Hoff reported on his activities as chairman.
- **Maintenance Committee:** Ed Visscher reported on the activities of the maintenance committee. An HVAC unit will require servicing.
- **Special Education Committee:** Minutes of the recent meeting held with WO and CCHS were received for information.
- **IT Committee:** John Lof reported on the activities of the IT Committee.
- **Board Assignments:** Following due process, the following roles and functions were assigned to Board Directors:
 - ▶ Chair - Chris Hoff
 - ▶ Vice-Chair - Wilfred Bulthuis
 - ▶ Treasurer - Oliver Hansma
 - ▶ Secretary - Will VanOene

- ▶ Education Committee - Wilfred Bulthuis
 - ▶ Finance Committee - Oliver Hansma / Ron Scheper
 - ▶ Development Committee - Ron Scheper
 - ▶ IT Committee - Will VanOene
 - ▶ Special Education Committee - Fiona Jansen
 - ▶ Credo Christian High School representative - Fiona Jansen
 - ▶ Maintenance Committee - Al Leyenhorst
 - ▶ CCSTA Representative - Al Leyenhorst
 - ▶ Public Relations Liaison - Fiona Jansen
- **General Business:** A number of matters were discussed including the SCSBC annual conference, the October 12 General meeting and CCES enrollment policy. The Ad-Hoc Committee for the expansion project was struck. Program delivery for the 2014-15 school year will be discussed further in December.
 - **Development Committee:** Oliver Hansma reported on the activities of the Development Committee, including possible changes to the delivery of the Golf Tournament.
 - **Education Committee:** Wilfred Bulthuis reported on the activities of the Education Committee.
 - **Finance Committee:** The financial statements for October 31, 2013 were submitted and reviewed. Rob Bisschop and Jacoba Leyenhorst were appointed as reviewers of the financial statements, and discovered no concerns.
 - **Next Meetings / Events:** The next regular Board meeting is planned for December 12, 2013. This meeting will be preceded by a Legal Authority meeting.
 - **Closing:** Al Leyenhorst closed with thanksgiving prayer. Chris Hoff adjourned the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Credo Aid Update....

It's been a busy fundraising season so far but we are thankful to say it's been a successful one too! Thus far we have raised a grand total of over \$16,500.

Wreaths and Gift

Baskets: Thank you to all the ladies who organized and came to help out with both of these productions. These fundraisers were back to back within a couple days, yet we were still blessed with the support of enough volunteers. Thank you!



Missing: We are missing one rectangular frying pan (in its box) from the kitchen. Do you know where it is? If you have borrowed it or if you know of its whereabouts please let us know so that we can ensure its return to the kitchen cupboard. Contact Evelynn Scheper at rescheper@hotmail.com

Holidays are now upon us and we look forward to a break and a slower paced January. May you all have a joyful Christmas as we celebrate our Saviours birth, and a blessed New Year!



Life ... a Gift from God

'Twas a cold cold winter night
When Mike's truck rolled into sight.
It was decked out with gifts galore,
Bows, and candles and much more.



Miss Bosch's choir was seated in the back,
Happy to sing, of enthusiasm there was no lack.
Hot chocolate and red scarves warmed our hearts
The children bundled up, they were ready to start.



The fearless director gave the cue,
And the choir sang for the old and the new.
Down Main Street they joyfully rolled.
"Life is a gift from God" was what they told.

The frosty parade came to an end,
Our thanks to all who were able to attend.
Christmas is the perfect time
To let our Christian message shine.



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Board of Directors

Mr. C. Hoff (2015)	Chairman
Mr. W. Bulthuis (2014)	Vice Chair/Ed. Com
Mr. W. VanOene (2016)	Secretary/IT Com
Mr. O. Hansma (2015)	Treasurer/Expansion
Mr. T. Bontkes (2014)	Expansion/Maintenance
Mrs. F. Jansen (2016)	CCHS/SpEd
Mr. A. Leyenhorst (2016)	Maintenance/CCSTA
Mr. R. Scheper (2014)	Development/Finance

Education Committee

Mr. W. Bulthuis	Mrs. Y. Hoogstra
Mr. R. Roukema	Mrs. W. Sikma
Mrs. J. VanOene	Mrs. L. VanDyke
Mr. H. Snijder	Mrs. J. Onderwater

Development Committee

Mr. R. Scheper	Mrs. M. Vanderhorst
Mrs. D. VanDyke	Mr. M. VanWoudenberg

Special Education Committee

Mrs. F. Jansen	Mrs. D. Huttema
	Mr. H. Snijder

Finance Committee

Mr. O. Hansma	Mr. R. Scheper
	Mrs. E. Kuntz

Expansion Committee

Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. O. Hansma
Mr. M. Homan	Ms. L. Scholtens
Mr. K. Stam	Mr. R. Wiegers

Maintenance Committee

Mr. A. Leyenhorst	Mr. H. Snijder
Mr. T. Bontkes	Mr. M. Homan
Mr. C. Vandergugten	Mr. B. VanOene
Mr. R. VanSpronsen	Mr. R. Wiegers

Staff

Mr. H. Snijder	Principal, Music 4-7
Mrs. J. Onderwater	VP, Kindergarten A
Ms. L. Scholtens	Kindergarten B
Mrs. M. MacDougall	Grade 1
Miss A. Bosch	Grade 2
Mr. S. Chase	Grade 3A
Mr. J. Kanis	Grade 3B
Mr. J. Scholtens	Grade 4
Mrs. L. Vanspronsen	Grade 5
Mrs. N. VanRhee	Grade 5
Mrs. J. deBoer	Grade 6
Miss R. Vanderhorst	Grade 7
Mrs. D. Huttema	SpEd, LA
Miss M. Bosma	Educational Ass't
Mrs. W. Deleeuw	Educational Ass't
Mrs. K. Meints	Educational Ass't
Miss K. Mostert	Educational Ass't
Mrs. J. Spoor	Educational Ass't
Miss P. VanDelft	Educational Ass't
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen	Educational Ass't
Mrs. E. Kuntz	Office Administrator

Credo Aid

Mrs. E. Scheper	Mrs. L. Leyenhorst
Mrs. S. Stam	Mrs. L. Saide
Mrs. A. VanSpronsen	Mrs. C. Luiten

Fee Structure 2013-2014

Membership	110.00	Kindergarten	260.00
Elem. (1-3)	470.00	Elem (4-7)	490.00
Junior High	635.00	Senior High	685.00

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 Curtis Braun email: CCSTA@shaw.ca



Intermediate
 21
 Tournament